

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended): A method for configuring a machine vision system over a network, the machine vision system including a heterogeneous set of vision processors (VPs) and at least one host ~~having~~ for supporting a user interface (UI), the method comprising:

sending vision processor (VP) VP characteristic information over the network from a VP of the heterogeneous set of VPs to a the at least one host having a UI, the VP characteristic information including VP hardware characteristics and VP software characteristics; and

using the UI to configure the VP via the network.

2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:

a plurality of VP characteristics.

3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:

a plurality of VP identification codes; and

a plurality of functions executable on the VP.

4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:

a VP identification code.

5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:

an executable program.

6 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein the executable program is adapted to configure a plurality of VP functions and parameters.

7 (currently amended): The method of claim 5, wherein the executable program is run on a thin client so as to provide a the UI.

8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:

a plurality of VP identification codes.

9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:

a plurality of functions.

10 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein sending VP characteristic information over the network includes:

connecting to the VP using a thin client.

11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the thin client is a web browser.

12 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the VP hardware characteristics include at least one of:

a number of available serial ports, a number of available digital inputs, and an acquisition size of a digital camera attached to the VP.

13 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the VP software characteristics include at least one of:

availability of specific communications protocol support and software

revision number.

14 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the VP hardware characteristics include at least one of:

hardware serial number, RS232 serial port characteristics, digital I/O characteristics, and network parameters.

15 (new): The method of claim 14, wherein the RS232 serial port characteristics include:

number of serial ports, hardware configuration of each serial port.

16 (new): The method of claim 15, wherein the hardware configuration of each serial port includes:

baud rate, parity, data bits, stop bits, hardware handshake, and system-specific software configuration of each serial port.

17 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the VP software characteristics include at least one of:

firmware revision number, system-specific global software configuration parameters, and contents of current VP program.

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18 (new): The method of claim 14, wherein digital I/O characteristics include at least one of:

a number of digital inputs, a number of digital outputs, and system-specific software configuration of each digital input.

19 (new): The method of claim 14, wherein the network parameters include at least one of:

ethernet MAC, static IP address, subnet mask, default gateway, system name, DSN server address, system-specific network parameters.

20 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the VP software characteristics include:

syntax of functions that are individually specified and executed by the VP.